

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-19 and 21 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

Claims 1-19: Cancelled.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended): A clothing strap tensioning device, comprising:
an elastic member having a geometry generally defined by substantially coplanar middle, left end, and right end portions, and bounded by upper, lower, left and right edges, ~~and~~ wherein the upper edges sloping slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof; and wherein the lower edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof; and
means integrated into the left end and right end portions for enabling releasable attachment of the end portions to each other to form the elastic member into a loop; ~~and~~
wherein said left and right end portion of the elastic member projecting upwardly away from said middle portion, and wherein, upon securing the tensioning device about the spaced-apart clothing straps, the clothing straps are drawn inwardly toward each other medially in a manner preventing twisting of the straps.

Claim 21: Cancelled.